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ABSTRACT

This Wisconsin state test booklet contains 110 multiple choice questions that measure civic literacy. The questions require knowledge of: (1) the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence; (2) the three branches of the U.S. government; (3) the structure of Wisconsin's government; (4) U.S. political parties and special interest groups; (5) the U.S. economy; (6) personal finance; (7) the civil rights movement and the rights of Blacks and Native Americans; and (8) voting in the United States and Wisconsin. (DJC)

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Civic Literacy

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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Herbert J. Grover, State Superintendent

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1. The right of citizens to vote directly for U.S. Senators was:

   A. given by the original Constitution.
   B. included in the Bill of Rights.
   C. decided by the Supreme Court.
   D. granted by a Constitutional amendment.

2. Changes or additions to the Constitution are called:

   A. laws.
   B. articles.
   C. amendments.
   D. Executive Orders.

3. Why was the Bill of Rights established?

   A. to prevent the large states from overpowering the small states during trade disputes
   B. to protect the liberties of the individual against unjust action by the government
   C. to provide for a separation of powers among the three branches of government
   D. to protect the states against unjust action by the government

4. What was the main purpose of the Declaration of Independence?

   A. to criticize the King of England
   B. to declare war on England
   C. to declare the colonies free from Great Britain
   D. to abolish the Articles of Confederation

5. The Constitution of the United States begins with the following words:

   > We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

   You can assume from these words that all power in our nation ultimately comes from the:

   A. states.
   B. consent of the citizens.
   C. President and the cabinet.
   D. police and the military.

6. Under the Articles of Confederation, the states had:

   A. greater power than the national government.
   B. less power than the national government.
   C. about the same power as the national government.

7. In terms of when they occurred in United States history, which is the correct order?

   A. Bill of Rights, Articles of Confederation, Constitution, Declaration of Independence
   B. Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, Articles of Confederation, Constitution
   C. Constitution, Bill of Rights, Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence
   D. Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Constitution, Bill of Rights

8. What is the basic purpose of the United States Bill of Rights?

   A. to protect local governments from state governments
   B. to guarantee economic opportunity for all citizens
   C. to protect citizens from abuses by government
   D. to encourage free trade among the states

9. What name is given to a basic plan for organizing and operating a government?

   A. a democracy
   B. a republic
   C. a constitution
   D. a court system

10. Most amendments to the United States Constitution deal with:

    A. human rights and the dignity of people.
    B. the method of electing the President and other officials.
    C. the taxing powers of the federal government.
    D. the powers of the Supreme Court.

11. The Declaration of Independence states:

> "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

    In 1776, which of the following practices were in conflict with the above statement?

    A. the right to own property
    B. the right to start a business
    C. the right to travel
    D. the right to own slaves

12. During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt's "New Deal" was an attempt to improve the economy by:

    A. expanding the power of the national government.
    B. reducing the power of the national government.
    C. expanding the power of state governments.
    D. expanding the power of local government.

13. The Constitution has lasted since 1787. This means:

    A. it cannot be changed.
    B. it has been able to meet the changing needs of the American people.
    C. no changes have been necessary.
    D. it has not been changed since it was written.

14. The department heads who advise the President are members of the:

    A. Supreme Court.
    B. House of Representatives.
    C. Cabinet.
    D. Senate.

15. What best describes the role of the federal government during the past 50-60 years (1930-1988)?

A. It has increased in power compared to the states.
B. It has decreased in power compared to the states.
C. In comparison to the states, its power has stayed about the same.

16. The United States has a federal system of government. This means that:

A. power is divided among three branches of government.
B. the people are guaranteed total freedom.
C. power is divided between the national and state governments.
D. the people vote directly on most issues.

17. The U.S. Constitution denies state governments the right to:

A. regulate education.
B. pass laws regarding marriage.
C. print and coin money.
D. borrow money.

18. Which level of government is responsible for mail delivery to people's homes?

A. national government
B. state government
C. county government
D. city government

19. In Wisconsin, which level of government issues drivers' licenses?

A. municipal government
B. state government
C. county government
D. city government

20. Which level of government issues passports?

A. national government
B. state government
C. county government
D. city government

21. Which activity is an example of state and national governments working together?

A. printing money
B. making foreign treaties
C. collecting and delivering mail
D. building interstate highways

22.

"The national government is too powerful and cannot deal effectively with many local matters. State and local governments should have the power and authority to solve social and economic problems."

What best describes a person who favors the ideas in the box above?

A. a monarchist
B. an anarchist
C. a nationalist
D. a states' rights supporter

23. According to the Constitution, primary responsibility for conducting foreign affairs belongs to the:

A. President and Congress.
B. Central Intelligence Agency.
C. Department of Defense.
D. Pentagon.

24. One responsibility of the U.S. President is to serve as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. This means the President can:

A. give orders to military commanders.
B. grant money for defense.
C. make a formal declaration of war.
D. send troops abroad with approval of the Supreme Court.

25. According to the U.S. Constitution, the President acts as a lawmaker by:

A. drafting and signing Constitutional amendments.
B. raising taxes and appropriating money.
C. declaring war and drafting citizens.
D. signing or vetoing acts of Congress.

26. The power to tax belongs to the:

A. President.
B. Congress.
C. Supreme Court.
D. Treasury.

27. In the U.S. House of Representatives, the number of Representatives from each state is based on total:

A. population over 18 years of age.
B. voters in the last election.
C. number of native-born citizens.
D. state population in the last census.

28. The number of U.S. Senators from Wisconsin is:

A. based on voter turnout.
B. based on the total population of the state.
C. the same as all other states.
D. changed from time to time.

29. What are the three branches of the U.S. national government?

A. state, local, national
B. agricultural, commercial, military
C. local, county, regional
D. legislative, executive, judicial

30. How can Congress check the powers of the President?

A. by overriding a President's veto
B. by passing a conference committee bill
C. by passing a bill only in the Senate
D. by declaring a law unconstitutional

07

31. The term "checks and balances" in the United States government generally refers to the:

A. disputes between local and national governments.
B. differences in political beliefs held by citizens.
C. competition among private companies for government contracts.
D. distribution of power among the three branches of government.

32. Which is the highest court in the federal judicial system?

A. Court of Last Resort
B. United States Supreme Court
C. Court of Appeals
D. State Supreme Court

33. What happens when the Senate and the House of Representatives do <u>not</u> agree completely on a bill?

A. The President signs the version the President thinks is best.
B. The bill must be returned to the author to be rewritten.
C. The House and Senate appoint a conference committee to work out the differences.
D. The bill must be thrown out.

34. Congress is part of the:

A. executive branch of government.
B. legislative branch of government.
C. judicial branch of government.

35. In the United States, which one of the following officials is elected to office?

A. United States Senator
B. United States Secretary of State
C. United States Supreme Court Justice
D. a member of the President's Cabinet

36. In order to be elected President of the United States, a candidate must receive a majority of votes:

A. in the Senate.
B. cast by voters.
C. in the electoral college.
D. in one-half of the states.

37. The President's powers are listed in which of the boxes below?

A

- vetoing laws
- granting pardons
- leading a political party
- calling special congressional sessions

B

- impeaching officials
- controlling appropriations
- approving treaties
- levying taxes

C

- interpreting laws
- deciding on the constitutionality of laws
- issuing rules regarding the misapplication of laws

A. Group A
B. Group B
C. Group C

38. Which is an example of the system of checks and balances in the federal government?

A. due process of law
B. people assured of a trial by jury
C. the Supreme Court declaring an existing law unconstitutional
D. members of the Congress enforcing the laws

39. How do U.S. Supreme Court justices get into office?

A. They are appointed for life by a committee of Republicans and Democrats.
B. They are appointed for life by the House and Senate.
C. They win national elections.
D. They are appointed to a lifetime term by the President, with the approval of the Senate.

40.

- Introduced by a sponsor
- Assigned to a committee
- Passed by the first house
- Assigned to another committee
- Passed by the second house
- Signed by the President

Which is described in the box above?

A. how a bill becomes a law
B. how a Presidential veto is overridden
C. how an amendment to the Constitution is added
D. how a law is declared unconstitutional

09

41. Most of the money needed to operate Wisconsin local government comes from:

A. fees and tuition.
B. property taxes.
C. income taxes and sales taxes.
D. cigarette, gasoline, and liquor taxes.

42. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices gain office by:

A. appointment for life by the Chief Justice.
B. appointment for life by the Governor.
C. election for a life term.
D. election for a term of ten years.

43. The three branches of Wisconsin state government are:

A. the treasury, the senate, and the assembly.
B. local, county, and regional.
C. executive, legislative, and judicial.
D. financial, legal, and social services.

44. The head of the Wisconsin state government is called the:

A. President.
B. Governor.
C. Chief Justice.
D. State Treasurer.

45. In Wisconsin, what type of tax do you pay when you buy clothing?

A. excise tax
B. income tax
C. property tax
D. sales tax

46. In Wisconsin, most property tax is used for:

A. roads and highways.
B. education.
C. police and fire.
D. public assistance (welfare).

47. Suppose you have just lost a case in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. To which of the following can you appeal?

A. Governor of Wisconsin
B. U.S. Congress
C. Wisconsin Legislature
D. U.S. Supreme Court

48. Which government agency should you contact to find out about the quality of drinking water in your home town?

A. Department of Development
B. Department of Administration
C. Department of Justice
D. Department of Natural Resources

49. Which activity is the main job of a lobbyist?

A. running for office in a political party
B. influencing legislative activity
C. writing legal opinions for judges
D. becoming a member of a congressional committee

50. Which group is responsible for recruiting and electing candidates for public office?

A. civil service agency
B. ethics board
C. political party
D. canvassing board

51. In the U.S. House of Representatives, the person elected head of the majority party is called the:

A. Speaker.
B. Whip.
C. President.
D. Chair.

52. The U.S. Constitution says nothing about:

A. activities of political parties.
B. duties of the President.
C. powers of Congress.
D. functions of the Court.

53. The presidential candidate for each major political party is nominated by:

A. the Senate and House.
B. the electoral college.
C. a national convention.
D. the state governments.

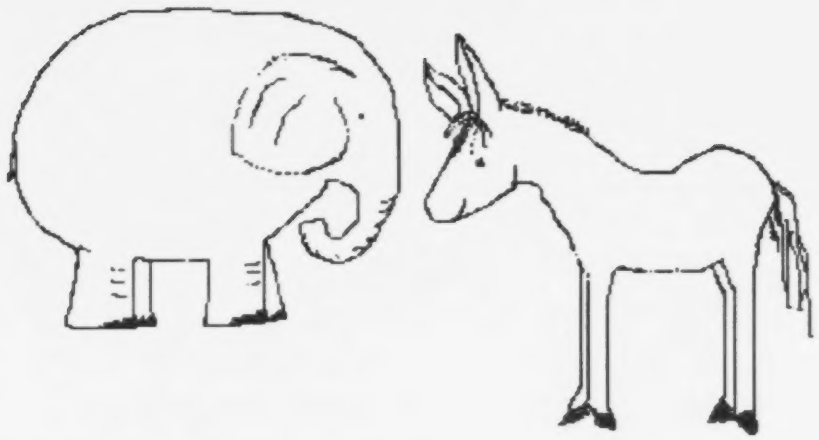
54. In order to influence governmental policy, special interest groups:

A. contact any branch or level of government which may assist their cause.
B. avoid influencing judicial decisions.
C. make frequent use of bribery and threats.
D. avoid allies in the bureaucracy.

55. Why is competition among political parties desirable in a democracy?

A. It costs less to campaign.
B. It provides people with a choice.
C. The best candidate will win.
D. The government is more efficient.

56.



The artist who drew the above political cartoon is attempting to symbolize:

A. the average person and government.
B. the governor and legislature.
C. the rights of states versus the power of the federal government.
D. the two major American political parties.

57.

Group A

Ronald Reagan
Gerald Ford
Richard Nixon
Dwight Eisenhower

Group B

Jimmy Carter
Lyndon Johnson
John Kennedy
Harry Truman

What would be the best headings for the above groups?

A. Group A — Democrats
   Group B — Republicans

B. Group A — Republicans
   Group B — Democrats

C. Group A — Presidents
   Group B — Vice-Presidents

D. Group A — Presidents Before World War II
   Group B — Presidents After World War II

58. Which best describes the role of third parties in U.S. politics?

A. Many ideas currently accepted by most Americans, such as the income tax, minimum wage, and unemployment insurance, were introduced first by third parties.
B. Third parties are a feature of modern times, especially the Twentieth Century.
C. Third parties have had most success in electing candidates to office at the national level, not at the local or state levels.
D. Nearly all third parties have been conservative or right of center.

59. Which one of the following actions would most likely result in more unemployment?

A. a decrease in welfare payments
B. an increase in consumer spending
C. a decrease in business spending
D. an increase in government spending

60. Which best describes the economy of the United States?

A. Everyone works for the government, which then provides everything for the people.
B. The people live and work in small groups which satisfy all their needs.
C. Businesses compete with each other to buy and sell goods at a profit.
D. All people share equally in the work and the rewards.

61. A nation has a negative trade balance when it:

A. sells more goods to other countries than it buys from them.
B. has a favorable balance of trade.
C. invests more in other countries than they invest in it.
D. imports more goods and services than it exports.

62. A government budget deficit exists when:

A. taxes are reduced.
B. the national debt is decreasing.
C. government expenditures are increased.
D. total government spending exceeds revenues.

63. Regulating the nation's supply of money is a responsibility of the:

A. Internal Revenue Service.
B. Congress.
C. Federal Reserve Board.
D. President.

64. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) are government agencies which:

A. regulate the stock market.
B. insure savings deposits.
C. monitor utility rates.
D. insure corporate investments.

65. One of the reasons a government might reduce taxes is to:

A. slow down the rate of inflation.
B. slow down the rapid rise in interest rates.
C. help to pay for unemployment compensation.
D. increase consumer spending and stimulate the economy.

66. A key factor underlying the principle of insurance is that insurance:

A. reduces the chances of accident or death.
B. shifts the financial burden away from the government.
C. lowers the total cost of accidents.
D. enables individuals to share losses.

67. If you buy a major item such as a color television set on the installment or time payment plan, you usually:

A. pay the same finance charge no matter where you buy.
B. pay no finance charge if you make your monthly payments on time.
C. sign a contract and make equal monthly payments for a set period of time.
D. get better service on your television set if you pay more.

68. To establish a good credit rating, the best thing a person can do is:

A. buy everything with cash.
B. charge items and pay bills by check.
C. charge items and pay bills on time.
D. pay all bills with credit cards.

69. When comparing several different contracts for a $200 loan, which item in these contracts should you compare to find the least total cost to you?

A. final payment date
B. amount of money paid as interest
C. the number of monthly payments
D. due date of first payment

70. Which of the following involves the greatest risk to the average person?

A. purchasing a life insurance policy
B. investing in corporate stocks
C. investing in government bonds
D. depositing in a savings account

71. A general principle of managing "savings" is that at least part of it should be readily available to spend in case of an emergency. "Savings" would be most available if:

A. placed in a bank savings account.
B. invested in rare coins.
C. invested in real estate.
D. used to buy a partnership in a small business.

72. One of the major disputes between tenants and landlords of apartments is over the return of the security deposit. Which of the following will best protect the tenant in a dispute over the security deposit?

A. Have the landlord sign a statement that the landlord is responsible for providing proper security.
B. Have the landlord provide a separate receipt that states the amount paid for the security deposit.
C. Have the landlord promise to return the deposit if nothing in the apartment is damaged.
D. Have the landlord and tenant sign a detailed statement about the condition of the apartment before signing the lease.

Linda has rented her first apartment and needs to buy furniture. She notices this ad in the newspaper:

> Three rooms of furniture —your choice of Colonial or Spanish! Includes a bedroom set, dining room set, and a complete living room set. Only $399.95.

At the store, the salesperson persuades Linda that the furniture in the ad is not quite right for a person like Linda. The salesperson shows her a nicer set of furniture that costs $1,000.00.

73. What conclusion should Linda reach?

A. The ad is meant to get people into the store, where the salesperson will try to sell the customer something else.
B. The store does not have a choice of Colonial or Spanish furniture.
C. The ad does not say anything about the price or the style of the furniture that it is advertising.
D. The store's idea of "three rooms of furniture" differs from normal standards.

74. Advertising is designed primarily to:

A. educate the public.
B. increase sales.
C. mislead the public.
D. reduce prices.

75. An effective money management plan for an individual or family:

A. never requires review and revision.
B. is based primarily on income and wants.
C. is flexible enough to buy whatever you might want.
D. increases your average salary.

76. Which of these statements about individual freedoms granted in the Bill of Rights is <u>false</u>?

A. There are no limits to individual freedoms.
B. The freedoms of each individual are limited by the rights of others.
C. The Bill of Rights guarantees people the freedom to criticize government.
D. Courts interpret the meaning of individual freedoms.

77. In any U.S. court of law, the refusal of persons to testify against themselves is:

A. an admission of guilt.
B. a reason for conviction.
C. a right of all persons accused of a crime.
D. a special privilege granted by a judge.

78. Which of the following freedoms is <u>not</u> covered in the U.S. Bill of Rights?

A. right of personal expression
B. right of property ownership
C. right to criminal due process
D. right to employment

79. Which one of the following is <u>not</u> an example of freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment?

A. A university professor criticizes our government.
B. As a practical joke, someone yells "Fire!" in a crowded auditorium.
C. Someone tells a joke that no one finds funny.
D. A person goes door-to-door to inform people about religion.

80. There are many ways in which United States citizens can legally oppose laws or actions that they consider to be unjust. Which is not a legal way to oppose laws or actions?

A. lobbying for votes
B. presenting your views to the media
C. participating in boycotts
D. trespassing on private property

81. Which one of the following might conflict with freedom of the press in the United States?

A. the right to have an attorney in a criminal trial
B. the right to vote
C. the right to privacy
D. the right to keep and bear arms

82. Which is not guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?

A. the right to a fair trial
B. the right to fair wages
C. the protection of personal property
D. freedom from unreasonable search

83. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution states that everyone shall be protected by the right to "due process of law." This means that:

A. a person cannot unjustly be deprived of his or her rights.
B. a defendant must have a lawyer during a trial, no matter how serious the crime.
C. a judge must sentence anyone found guilty to a jail term.
D. every person accused of a crime is guilty until proven innocent.

84. Which is not a constitutional right for a person accused of a crime?

A. the right to a jury trial, if desired
B. the right to have a lawyer represent the accused
C. the right to question those who testify against the accused
D. the right to select the judge who will try the case

85. The Supreme Court decision in the case of Miranda vs. Arizona required that in the process of making an arrest, the police must:

A. inform the suspect of his or her rights.
B. provide the suspect with an attorney.
C. allow the suspect to make one phone call.
D. refrain from any use of force.

86. Under the U.S. Constitution, the government cannot take away a person's life, liberty, or property without using:

A. due process of law.
B. implied powers.
C. double jeopardy.
D. states rights.

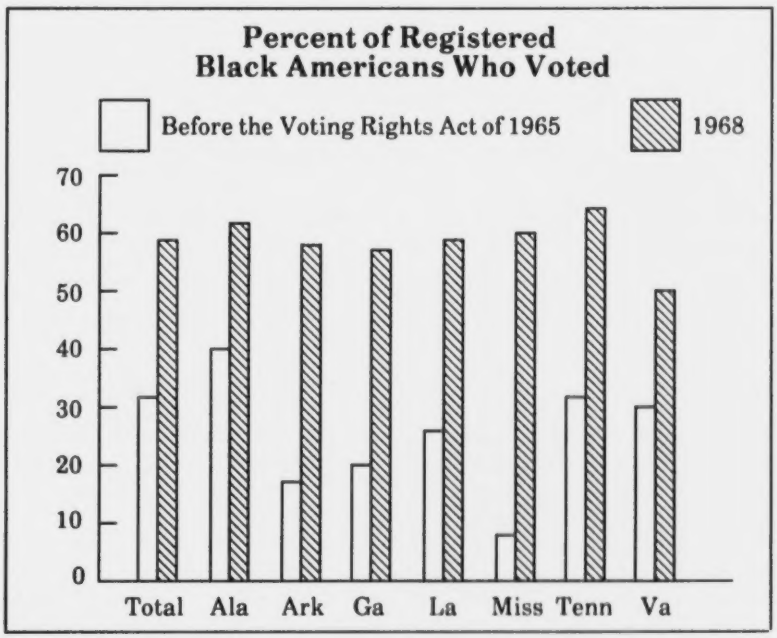
87. Which of the following would be in violation of the "equal protection of the laws" clause of the 14th Amendment?

A. a law requiring parents to have their children innoculated against polio and small pox
B. a law requiring people to be a certain age before they can marry
C. a law stating that girls can drive at sixteen but boys must wait until they are eighteen
D. a law stating you must be a citizen or have special permission to obtain a job

88. According to practice before 1800, who was allowed to vote in national elections?

A. all white men
B. all men and women who owned property
C. all men and women
D. all white men who owned property

89.



Based upon the graph above, which of the following conclusions is true?

A. After the 1965 law, the number of Black Americans registered to vote increased in every state listed.
B. More Black Americans voted after 1965 than before 1965.
C. Only those states listed in the graph denied Black Americans the right to vote.
D. After the 1965 law passed, the greatest increase in the Black American voting population occurred in Tennessee.

90. "We Shall Overcome" was a theme song of a movement that demanded equal justice for Black people. Which of the following is used to describe that movement?

A. abolitionist movement
B. state rights movement
C. civil rights movement
D. progressive movement

91. Martin Luther King, Jr., made the following statement in one of his most famous speeches: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Which of the following sentences best reflects the meaning of Dr. King's statement?

A. In the United States, there will always be racial conflict.
B. Racial equality is only a dream and can never be realized.
C. People in the United States have always been treated equally, regardless of race.
D. Someday, people in the United States may be treated equally, regardless of race.

92. According to laws against sex discrimination, which would be illegal?

A. allowing girls to enroll in auto mechanics courses
B. nominating boys for the "Future Secretary of the Year Award"
C. prohibiting boys from enrolling in home economics courses
D. hiring women to teach metal shop courses

93. Which of the following sets of terms is directly related to the history of Native Americans?

A. Dred Scott Decision, National Urban League, N.A.A.C.P.
B. Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907-1908, "picture brides," Internment Camps
C. Trail of Tears, Dawes Act, Wounded Knee
D. Ellis Island, The Know-Nothing Movement, Canal and Railroad Building

94. An American Nazi Party leader wanted to give a speech in a public park across the street from a Jewish synagogue. The members of the synagogue asked the court to stop the speech, but the judge denied the request.

What was the basis for the judge's decision?

A. Even Americans with unpopular viewpoints have freedom of speech.
B. Freedom of religion is more important than freedom of speech.
C. By allowing the speech, there would be less publicity for the Nazi Party.
D. The Jewish community had the right to deny the group access to the park.

95. The case of Brown vs. Board of Education was most concerned with:

A. segregation.
B. fair housing.
C. employment opportunities.
D. right of free expression.

96. Which year was the first time a woman could have voted for President?

A. 1860
B. 1890
C. 1910
D. 1920

97. American Indian Tribal governments, including Wisconsin Indian Tribes, are recognized under U.S. law as:

A. nations.
B. cities.
C. states.
D. countries.

98. In Wisconsin, which political activity is open to people who are not citizens?

A. serving on juries
B. voting in elections
C. running for public office
D. speaking at legislative hearings

99. Which activity is least likely to affect passage of a bill in the Wisconsin Legislature?

A. signing a petition for or against the bill
B. writing letters to state assembly members
C. speaking at a hearing on the bill
D. registering to vote in the next state election

100. The procedure by which citizens can remove an elected official from office is called:

A. nomination.
B. search and seizure.
C. recall.
D. deregulation.

101. What is the most direct way to help a candidate win a Wisconsin Assembly seat?

A. accept a job with the state government
B. check-off tax donations for federal elections
C. volunteer to work on the individual's campaign
D. join a special interest group

102. Which is a reason why many Americans do not vote?

A. They can't pay their property taxes.
B. They believe the outcome doesn't matter.
C. They are unable to pass a literacy test.
D. They fail to join a political party.

103. To be a candidate on the ballot for mayor of a Wisconsin city, a person must:

A. pass a written examination for the office.
B. prove graduation from high school.
C. file a list of assets with the circuit court.
D. obtain enough signatures on nomination papers.

104. According to research on voting, which group is most likely to vote in U.S. Presidential elections?

A. middle-aged professionals
B. college students
C. poor people
D. factory workers

105. To protect the accuracy and honesty of modern elections, election officials require:

A. poll taxes.
B. literacy tests.
C. voter registration.
D. grandfather clauses.

106. Who may vote in Wisconsin open-primary elections?

A. only party members
B. all qualified voters
C. only non-party members
D. all unregistered voters

107. When people register to vote in Wisconsin, they must prove:

A. age, citizenship and 10-days residency.
B. private property ownership.
C. high school graduation.
D. political party membership.

108.

Voter 1:	"My candidate promises to reduce government spending, to improve conservation of natural resources, and to lower tariffs."

Voter 2:	"My candidate has been an excellent congresswoman. She has promised to support education; she has a lot of experience in government, and I know she understands our problems because she has already been against a tax increase."

In what way are the candidates supported by voters 1 and 2 most alike?

A. They are concerned about the cost of government.
B. They have had experience in government.
C. They are equally interested in environmental issues.
D. They are more concerned about foreign policy than about domestic issues.

109. In a general election in Wisconsin, members of the Democratic Party:

A. can vote only for Democrats.
B. can vote for whomever they choose.
C. cannot vote for Independents.
D. cannot vote for Republicans.

110. A person wants to vote for a candidate who has the best understanding of the issues and who has the best political record. What should be most important in choosing a candidate?

A. how long the candidate has lived in the community
B. what the opponents say about the candidate
C. whether the candidate is young, old, male, or female
D. a position statement issued by the candidate and the stated goals of the candidate